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Black America: The Consumer Nation

Black America squanders potential power through spending habits

CHICAGO (FinalCall.com)—If Black America were an independent country, its wealth would rank it as the 11th richest in the world, according to a consumer research document that analyzes Black spending power annually. But, that spending power is being squandered, observers note, relegating Black America to economic slavery, instead of financial freedom.

"The Buying Power of Black America" recently was released by Target Market News Inc. (TMN), a Chicago-based marketing research group. The analysis of Black spending power last year showed that some \$631 billion flowed through Black hands. By comparison, the United States ranked first in Gross National Income (GNI), at \$9.6 trillion in year 2000 figures.

"That comparison that we published is designed to get people to respect us as an economic force, but the truth is we don't behave in the same way those nations do. So while the comparison is not totally there, it makes a point that we are an economic force," TMN Editor Ken Smikle told The Final Call. "Folks wonder why we don't spend more money with us, but the real issue is we don't have access to capital to build businesses that are convenient to where we shop and where we live."

"Our expectations are understandable because of the centuries of discrimination we've suffered, and folks want to see us be the

answer to our own problems that we didn't create. But asking us to go out of our way to do something that nobody has to do because of a circumstance we didn't create or perpetuate, I think, is unrealistic," he continued.

Mr. Smikle refutes the idea that the circulation of money in a community can be documented. And he argues that economic independence can be arrived at, if Black Americans reach out to build trade relationships with the international market.

"We don't want to become an isolated community that only circulates its dollars amongst itself. We're part of the world and we have to spend our money with the world," he said.

But others argue that a focus on circulating more money within the Black community is key to economic empowerment, and that spending power does not necessarily equate to economic strength.

"There is no such thing as consumer power; it's an oxymoronic term," claims Dr. Claude Anderson, author of the book, "Pownomics." In a capitalistic society, he argues, producers, distributors and sellers have power over the consumers, and that Black Americans are exactly where they were in 1860 on the eve of the Civil War.

"At that time, 98 percent of the Black people in America were enslaved and we had half of one percent of this nation's wealth. One hundred and forty years later, when we're supposed to be free, we still have half of one percent of the wealth of the rich-

est nation on earth."

Group economics

A major reason for Black America's failure is the inability to recycle its money within its communities, he implied. Nearly all of Black income is spent directly outside of Black hands, because Blacks do not practice group economics—pooling of money, focusing it into one geographical area and purchasing in a bloc, he added.

A perfect example of group economics, according to Dr.



Anderson, was accomplished in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Okla., in the early 1900s—a time when legal segregation forced Blacks to do business among themselves. Commonly referred to as "Black Wall Street," the area became a nationally recognized entrepreneurial center, as dollars circulated 36 to 1,000 times within the Black community, according to authors Jay Wilson and Ron Wallace in their

book on the subject.

Among over 600 successful businesses were 21 churches, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores and two movie theaters, plus a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half-dozen private airplanes, and even a bus system. On a fateful June 1, 1921, the business district was bombed from the air and burned to the ground in a riot by mobs of envious Whites, including ranking city officials.

Today, there are 38.3 million Blacks in America and over 400,000 Black businesses, according to Dr. Anderson. He claims that in the past 25 years, other ethnic groups have increased their disposable income and out-produced Blacks in wealth because they practice group economics, resulting in the creation of more businesses.

"One out of every 10 Asians is in business; one out of 35 Whites is in business; one out of every 54 Hispanics is in business; and only one out of every 104 Blacks is in business," he said.

Dr. Anderson encourages Blacks to use what he calls competitive advantage in industries where Blacks dominate in consumer patterns or in population.

"If you consume more leather than anyone else, you should be manufacturing leather," he said.

"Blacks need to come together, pool their resources, build industries around their competitive advantages and control everything from the resources at the bottom to the manufacturing and production, warehousing and distributing, all the way to retail market

at the top, and confine their money by buying Black and selling to any color.

"Otherwise, they will never be able to survive in this society," he said.

Land, the basis of wealth

Dr. Ridgely Muhammad, an agricultural economist and manager of Muhammad Farms, said that the definition of "slave"—a person who has lost control of himself and is dominated by something or someone describes the economic condition of most Blacks in America.

He points to the Economic Program of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as a solution to the ills of the Black community. And it starts with the land, he said.

"When I heard the Hon. Elijah Muhammad say that agriculture is the root of civilization, I changed my major in undergraduate school from architectural engineering to agricultural economics," he said.

"The children of Israel were taken out of Egypt and given the Promised Land so they could be a free people. There has never been in the history of the world a people who were free and independent with no land. The number one thing a nation must do is feed its people," he said.

Dr. Muhammad said that the American agricultural economy is being slowly worn down, explaining that 99 percent of family farm income comes from off-farm employment.

To help save Black farms, he proposes that Blacks in each city form a buying group to collectively purchase produce in bulk

orders for distribution throughout the community. Several major cities, he said, have buyers clubs successfully underway. He also commended the POWER company and MATAH network for striving to lead in the manufacturing and distribution of Black products and goods.

"We've got good jobs, but we end up paying the money right back to the people who we're working for. The White man's system only works if there is a slave, because the 'upper crust' doesn't do any work. They call it capitalism," he said.

According to Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, author and publisher of "Black Economics: Solutions for Economic and Community Empowerment," the three ways to develop wealth are entrepreneurial ventures, real estate or the stock market.

A recent Chicago Sun Times report showed that Black investment in the market dropped from 74 percent last year to a current 61 percent, and that Blacks are looking into real estate as a more viable investment option.

The TMN report says that housing was Black America's greatest expenditure in 2002, at over \$131 billion.

Entrepreneurship, which Dr. Kunjufu said was championed for Black Americans by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Marcus Garvey, offers many challenges. He claims, however, that Black Americans could maintain their communities, despite a nine-year peak in unemployment, by supporting

story continues pg3



Congressman Frank Ballance Visits Pitt Community College

Congressman Frank Ballance of the 1st Congressional District recently requested a partnership meeting with Pitt Community College. The meeting was hosted by Ernis A. Lee, Director of Outreach at PCC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for a Fall Youth Summit to be held at Pitt Community College.

Pictured left to right standing are: Jeff Robinson, Director of Basic Law Enforcement Training; Jaime Espinosa, Director of Latino/Hispanic Development; Jamie Byrd, Associate Vice President of Distance Education; Congressman Ballance; Dr. Bob Waddell, Executive Vice President; Calvin Henderson, President of the Pitt County Chapter of the NAACP; and Jim Tomtania. Seated left to right: Ernis A. Lee; Lou Ann Rasberry, Director of Basic Skills/HRD; Dr. Wanda Bunch, Associate Vice President/Chief Curriculum Officer; and Rose Glover, Greenville City Councilwoman.

photo Jim Rouse



Classic Photo Shot From The Archives Of The Minority Voice Newspaper



Shown above are members of the State Executive Board of the NAACP as they prepare for the State Convention. The NAACP State Convention will be hosted by the Greenville chapter on Oct. 2 - Oct. 4

photo by Jim Rouse



Archive Photo Of A Few Who Gave Us Our Strong Community

Opinions

African-American job development

Commentary



RAYMOND V. HAYSBERT SR.
AFRO PHOTO

It's simple, really. The rate of unemployment in metro Baltimore could be as high as 30 percent for young Black males. The impact of living wage jobs is self-evident in families stabilized, self-respect engendered, having young fathers more responsible, education funding, tax base enhancement, etcetera.

The operating assumption is that political power can increase access to jobs in the government sector, and financial power controllers create job opportunities in the commercial sector. And for that matter, boardroom power helps secure non-profit jobs. Keeping them is more a matter of competence. Presently, the working Black population finds 70 percent of its jobs in the public sector, and any legislative tremor in Annapolis, City Hall or D.C. is felt immediately.

Ossie Davis promoted

planning as the first priority (it's not the man, it's the plan) at the very first Congressional Black Caucus dinner. He starred again at the recent historic combined Afro-American Urban League-NAACP Next Generation Leadership reception with his wife, Ruby Dee, co-starring.

Speaking at the Urban League's historic Orchard Street Church, Davis proclaimed, "We've got the power. We have \$500 billion of cash every year coursing through Afram pockets. We've got the power," he said. "We have millions of voters concentrated in our urban areas. People want the billions and votes the Afram community has, the resources we have. What we lack," said Davis, "is having conscious control of our economic and political power." We need to consider money and votes as tools to make good things happen in our communities. These powers must be used to have any value.

Some folks thinking at the macroeconomic level, the trickle-down people, urge that our salvation lies in our big-power people, that "they" ought pool their resources and make jobs. Others, the economic-development folks, think that salvation lies in "someone" or "they" must bring big business, or big-box

outlets to relocate into our urban area to provide jobs.

It follows that our challenged community (us) and those who want to help can help themselves best by redirecting their resources into the nest channels to produce more jobs.

Small business is the major source of new employment. I

ated would hire 70 Blacks per 100.

Traditionally, new jobs created in the East and West Baltimore biotech parks will likely only provide eight percent of their jobs to those of another race.

Using Cathy Hughes' Radio One as one example shows that her associates are

substance abuse.

It's simple, really. What is most likely to succeed is a clear micro-level "we, not them" plan that leaves the sustainable power in the hands of our area's residents.

The players are the activist Black and White citizens who make decisions on cash flow every day as to where to buy

ceptions and attitudes of self on the inside change; rather than to begin to expect such changes from the outside. Who was it that said insanity is in continuing doing what you have (traditionally) always done and yet expect different results?

How? By using psy-ops techniques to provide clear pictures of the benefits and obligations in such changes and gain commitment, not just involvement

Advocate changed behavior, and start by getting residents involved before commitment is expected, using a block captain or common interest group approach. Use lots of graphic to see that recipients get the right picture.

Form a group of 10 pledged to be activist on the co-op economics front, to gain knowledge, pump up the volume, energize and advocate, and lead by example. Everyone should examine their own checkbook for whom they give their financial power to. What is your co-op economics index? Who are you empowering with your dollars? The answer? Check your checkbook!

Raymond V. Haysbert Sr. is chair of the Greater Baltimore Urban League and owner of The Forum Caterers.

"We've got the power. We have \$500 billion of cash every year coursing through Afram pockets. We've got the power."

guess that, based on a study by Dr. Steven Rogers, of Northwestern University, "The ethnicity of the business owner is more important in job development than business location."

In the Baltimore area (city and five counties), the group with the highest index of need for employment and the lowest index of resources to fill that need is its majority African American citizens.

Businesses in Black areas employ 32 percent of jobs to Blacks if the business is non-White owned, but 85 percent if they are Black-operated businesses. Businesses in White areas employ only 15 Black per 100 if the company is White-owned, but the same type of business if Black oper-

more than 74 percent Afram as compared to when the owners were not Black.

So while any business location in an Afram area has an impact on employment, the impact of Afram ownership is significantly more effective.

It's simple, really. The answer is cooperative economics by the majority.

One hundred living wage jobs created would redirect \$1,750,000 back into the community or out of it, depending on the mindset of the residents. This in turn would produce as many as 65 more jobs when recycled, and so on. For all citizens of metro Baltimore, this would result in a related drop in need for law enforcement, social services, emergency room visits and

goods and services. They can increase jobs or export jobs at will. "Don't hate the players, the ones who think Black first."

The spectators are the uninvolved, uncommitted, impotent citizens who accept the traditional game and channels to the same old people getting both their share and Afram shares too. (They should get off the field.)

The game? Cooperative economics as defined every December in Kwanzaa rites. The strategy? What we do; it begins from the inside out.

To change from traditional behavior requires paradigm-shift, mind-set change, mental reprogramming, rewritten scripts. Assuming behaviors change when changes in per-

In defense of Condoleezza Rice: Those 16 words

Commentary



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS
AFRO PHOTO

Condoleezza Rice, a woman of unfailing intensity and focus, is one of the engines that have hauled along the war on terror. She was in the White House on September 11 and, along with Vice President Dick Cheney, helped navigate the country in the president's absence. She subsequently guided the Afghan and Iraqi wars. Along the way, Rice endeared herself to Americans as a woman who worked her way up from humble southern origins to become one of the most powerful women in America, perhaps in the world.

If Bush is elected to a second term, there are whispers that she will supplant Colin Powell as Secretary of State. Others are buzzing that she will run in for governor of

California in 2006. Surely that would be regarded as stepping stone to the presidency. For this, her approval has always been assured.

Until now.

Sixteen words uttered by President Bush during his Jan. 28 State of the Union address have unduly affixed themselves to Rice's reputation. During that speech, Bush cited British intelligence indicating Iraqi tyrant Saddam Hussein had attempted to purchase uranium from Africa. The obvious implication: Hussein was reconstructing his nuclear program. The accusation provided the first, clear rationale for preemptively attacking the Iraqi dictator.

Just one thing: The information was bogus. CIA chief George Tenet knew this. In fact, he sent a memo to Rice's chief deputy, Stephen Hadley, questioning the veracity of the British intelligence. Still, the accusation made it into the president's Jan. 28 address, raising questions of whether Rice ignored Tenet's warnings in order to bolster the case for war.

The scent of a full-blown scandal has been wafting around Rice ever since. As national security advisor, she's

the president's primary advisor and confidante. It is ultimately her responsibility to make sure that the president is providing the American public with accurate security and foreign affairs information. This is particularly true of the Jan. 28 speech, which announced to the world that America intended to pursue a bold new policy of preemptive strikes against rogue and terrorist states.

front lines of intelligence and law enforcement," explained Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.) to the Associated Press. "She had a learning curve," continued Goss, who also observed that Rice was only eight months on the job when the September 11 attacks occurred.

Sounds rationale. But Rice was not being asked to decipher complex intelligence. The CIA had already done that. As

tained an active weapons program. On this point there is wide consensus amongst international intelligence agencies.

It is well known that in 1991, Hussein was on the verge of acquiring nuclear capabilities. Throughout the '90s, he continued to stockpile biological and chemical weapons. Iraqi physicists have reported that Iraq has most of the critical components to cre-

and fuel the hatred of people intent on destroying America. "Was that a threat that you could allow to sit unanswered?" asked Rice on PBS's "News Hour with Jim Lehrer"? Plainly, the answer is no.

Rice, a woman with uncommon access to strength and intelligence, did not quiver. And the world is safer now because of her leadership. The 16 words the president uttered on Jan. 28 remain a true exposition of the UK government's position. It is regrettable that the president used it when our own intelligence thought it was suspect. But as articulated, it is a true statement.

Scrutiny is an appropriate response. But the fact remains that Rice did not lie, and her actions have made the world safer. Armed with little else with which to assault Rice, her enemies have latched onto those 16 words to bloody her reputation.

One longs for the days when you had to actually lie to have your integrity impugned.

Armstrong Williams is a syndicated columnist and television commentator based in Washington

Rice's failure to edit out questionable intelligence suggests incomplete and shoddy staff work at the highest level of government, but...

Rice's failure to edit out questionable intelligence suggests incomplete and shoddy staff work at the highest levels of government. So much so, that the president communicated information to the public that simply was not related to reality. Truly, that is alarming.

Some people have tried to explain away "those 16 words" as part of Rice's learning curve.

"Condi came up through the diplomatic circles. She is more of an academic ... than somebody who has been on

one administration official told me, "This is basic, basic stuff." Rice said as much herself during a recent appearance on the "News Hour with Jim Lehrer," when she flatly accepted "personal responsibility for this entire episode."

This is serious. In a democracy, the president derives his legitimacy from the public. Erode that trust, and the president's authority will slip away like water through open fingers. That said, those 16 words were not fatal. The fact remains that Saddam main-

ate a nuclear weapon.

According to German intelligence reports, Iraq would be nuclear by 2005.

Our own intelligence estimated that Iraq would acquire a nuclear weapon by the end of the decade, perhaps sooner if he acquired fission material. This would present the doomsday scenario: Saddam possessing the nuclear, biological, chemical capacity and money to attack the West.

In effect, Iraq was the engine of terrorism to further destabilize the Middle East

'James Crow, Esquire,' in the newsroom

Commentary



GEORGE E. CURRY
AFRO PHOTO

It was one of the most eagerly awaited speeches of the summer. Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial had been elected president and CEO of the National Urban League and people wanted to know his vision for the organization.

In his first convention speech, Morial said that he wanted to lead an "empowerment movement" that would eliminate inequality in five key areas: education, the economy, health and quality of life, civic engagement and civil rights and racial justice.

So how did his hometown paper, the New Orleans Times-Picayune, cover this momentous speech?

Rather than focus on how

Morial plans to reinvigorate the civil rights group, the newspaper became obsessed with a brief section of the speech in which he said that his new empowerment drive "is a movement to defeat a new villain ... James Crow, Esquire. As Dr. Robert Hill [author of a chapter in the league's annual "State of Black America" report] says, 'James Crow, Esquire' represents the new, sometimes not so obvious structural inequality that persists 40 years [after the onset of the modern civil rights movement]."

In a 4,377-word speech, that is what they chose to focus on?

This is just one example of why so many people distrust the White-owned media. Some things, such as this coverage can't be justified.

Not only did that story run under the headline, "Former mayor makes fiery national debut," a second story the following Sunday carried the headline, "Skeptics denounce 'blame-Whites' tactic."

The newspaper tried to repackage Morial - the first Black mayor of New Orleans to win a majority of the White vote - as some kind of flaming

militant. And they did so by saying that Harry Edwards, the University of California sociologist who encouraged track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos to give raised-fist "Black Power" salutes at the 1968 Olympics, coined the term "James Crow, Esquire" in 1982.

First, let's define the term. Hill, a well-respected scholar,

base searches.

As a reporter, I heard former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks use the term in the 1970s, long before Edwards supposedly created it. I heard Jesse Jackson use "James Crow, Esquire," in the 1980s. I heard Al Sharpton use it in the 1990s. And NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and others have

the Urban League is a non-partisan organization, it is a non-partisan organization that is overwhelmingly Democratic. James Crow, Esquire, it may safely be assumed, is a registered Republican."

As any Journalism 101 student should know, it's not safe to assume anything. Ever. The National Urban League has

James Crow, Esquire, there is evidence that old Jim Crow thinking is still around. *Fairness and Accuracy in the Media* provides some telling research on Fox News Channel's host Bill O'Reilly.

In April, referring to an inner-city charity in Washington called Best Friends, O'Reilly remarked: "Does anyone know where the Best Men are? I hope they're not in the parking lot stealing our hubcaps."

Earlier this year, he used the derogatory term, "Mexican wetbacks." And on Feb. 25, 1999, he said: "Will African Americans break away from the pack thinking and reject immorality - because that's the reason the family's breaking apart - alcohol, drugs, infidelity. You have to reject that, and it doesn't seem - and I'm broadly speaking here, but African Americans won't reject it."

What African Americans and everyone else should reject is all forms of racism, whether it is Jim Crow or James Crow, Esquire.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and Black PressUSA.com.

noted in his report, "There has been a strong shift from Jim Crow - the overt manifestation of racial hatred by individuals in White society - to James Crow, Esquire, the maintenance of racial inequality through covert processes of structure and institutions."

Second, by giving credit to Harry Edwards for coining the term, the *Times-Picayune* demonstrates its own ignorance of the civil rights movement, ignorance that can't be glossed over by using LexisNexis data

used the term this decade.

Instead of "blaming Whiteness" - an anachronistic expression itself - the paper ignored Morial's comment that, "I commit that we will work harder than ever before to build multi-racial coalitions to solve the challenges of the 21st century."

There are other digs in the story.

The league, being tax-exempt, is supposedly non-partisan. It is, in fact, non-partisan.

And there's this: "Although

never polled its members on their political affiliation; therefore the *Times-Picayune* can only "assume" that it is overwhelmingly Democratic. And those who referred to "James Crow, Esquire," over the years have used it to characterize Democratic and Republican officials. By the way, the chairman of the Urban League's board of directors is a registered Republican.

While it can be argued that Morial's hometown newspaper provided a textbook example of

REPARATIONS

Judge riles plaintiffs



Plaintiffs in six states — New York, New Jersey, Illinois, California, Louisiana and Texas — filed against 17 corporations that allegedly profited from slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

by Myiti Sengstacke
Special to the Tri-State Defender

Legal fireworks exploded during the latest phase of a stormy reparations trial. Lead plaintiff attorney, Lionell Jean Baptiste, along with hundreds of anxious supporters, were astounded as Judge Charles Norgle denied several motions filed on behalf of the plaintiffs in court. "Our opinion is that the court has aligned itself directly and openly with the defense," said Baptiste. "He has denied our motion for preservation of documents and we have introduced that motion from the very beginning of this lawsuit," he said. Baptiste said he made a motion to prohibit the defense from shredding evidence of destroying documents, in order to preserve the archives. "These documents are crucial because they contain information about our forefathers and foremothers, who they were and who they were sold to," he explained. The first consolidated class action lawsuit was filed in February 2003 asking reparations on behalf of 35 million descendants of slaves. Plaintiffs in six states—New York, New Jersey, Illinois, California, Louisiana and Texas — filed against 17 corporations that allegedly profited from slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. The cases have been consolidated in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, and Eastern Division. Defendant corporations include Aetna Casualty, Fleet Boston, Lloyds of London, J.P. Morgan Chase, CSX Corporation, Brown Bros. Harriman, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Williamson-Liggett Group, Loews Corporation, Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, New York Life Insurance, Lehman Bros. and West Point Stevens. "I believe that we have the most racist and conservative judge on the bench handling this case I" said Dr. Conrad Worrill, chairman of the National Black United Front, an organization supporting the lawsuit. Dr. Worrill said that plaintiffs believe that Judge Norgle previously worked for Continental Bank, whose credit card division was sold to Chase Manhattan Bank, a defendant in this case. "In the courtroom we are getting the legs knocked down from under us," said Roger Warham, of New York, counsel for one of the plaintiffs, Deadria Farmer-Paellmann. Paellmann has uncovered evidence of corporate ties to the slave trade. "J.P. Morgan is one of the companies that claims they have no documents that are connected to slavery. I have a copy of the documents, although they say they have no record," said Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, lead New York plaintiff. "In an era with what happened with Enron, an era where when the Holocaust cases were brought and Swiss banks were told not to destroy documents, it is inconceivable that the judge can then say, 'well normal rules can govern and protect your interest.' The first time we were in court we raised this issue and it was fully briefed," said Warham. "Then we pushed for a decision in May because we were concerned that documents would disappear. We waited until July 14 and he made the decision to deny us." Judge Norgle, took the position that it is not necessary to protect archives and that procedures will provide the plaintiffs with enough protection. But plaintiffs' attorneys disagreed. "We have also filed a motion asking that the court appoint a mediator to mediate the issues in this in order to move this process forward. He again denied that motion," said Baptiste. Counsel for the defendant corporations have moved to dismiss the class-action lawsuit, saying that the racially-charged national debate over reparations belongs in Congress, not in Federal court. Judge Norgle gave plaintiffs until September to respond to their motion. "His unfair treatment is setting up a scenario by hiding behind procedure," said Worrill. Baptiste noted that Norgle also sided with the corporation, which denied a motion to depose a 97-year-old key witness. "At an earlier point we filed an emergency motion to depose former slave, Emma Marie Clark," he said. "Her health was very fragile and we asked that the court allow us to go forward with the deposition. The defense countered and filed an emergency motion to quash that notice of deposition, and the judge ruled

in favor of the defendants," said Baptiste.

The judge later ruled that Clark could be deposed on July 9. Clark died on Independence Day, July 4, 2003, only a few days away from giving her deposition.

"The fact that the judge did not grant the motion to do the depositions means we lost the record of the key 97-year-old witness. In working with the defense counsel we can preserve the position of those that are still living," said attorney Roland Burris, a supporter of the reparations movement.

The next reparations hearing is scheduled on Oct. 20 at the Dirksen Federal Building at 10 a.m.

"We as activists throughout the United States plan to expose this judge's behavior," said Worrill.

"This judge is aligning himself with the corporations. We are not going to let him get away with this," he said.

Consumer Nation

. .cont. from page 1

Black businesses. "For every \$1 billion that we spend with each other, we employ 50,000 more of our people," he said. Asians and Jews circulate money better, he said, because they make decisions based on community, while Blacks make decisions based on price. But Blacks hesitate to support Black merchants because their prices may be higher or the same as the competitor, he added. The challenge also lies, he said, in location. The 25 percent of Black households that earn a substantial income live in the suburbs where there are considerably fewer Black businesses, said Dr. Kunjufu. "If your best Black minds do not live or work, spend, volunteer or invest in the Black community, can it be anything else but a ghetto?" he asked. "We have a lot of income, but we don't have a lot of wealth. And we don't have wealth, because we simply transfer our wealth to others by spending most of that with businesses other than our own," said James Clingman, who is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Clingman echoed others who say that control of manufacturing, production and distribution are key to economic empowerment. But he also contends that Blacks have psychological barriers. "We're also rich in intellectual capacity, and that's what bothers me," he continued. "If most of us were not psychologically enslaved, we would be spending with one another, we would be building more businesses and supporting them, we would be pooling our capital and pooling our intellectual resources and doing more for our people, just like others are doing in this country. The only reason I see for us being the most educated and intellectual Black people on this earth, and having nearly \$700 billion go through our hands and still be in the condition that we're in, is that we're still psychologically enslaved. There's no way that this White man can do to us what he does and we just accept it. We have to stop accepting it. Turn inwards, look inwards to our own resources and do more for ourselves, regardless of what he does," he said.

Press Release

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Dated: August 5, 2003

Immediate Release * Immediate Release * Immediate Release *

On Thursday, July 31, 2003, the Pitt County Branch NAACP President, Calvin C. Henderson, community leaders, and members of the Boseman family met with Assistant U.S. Attorney Yvonne Warford-McKinney to discuss the police custody death of 41 year old Eugene Allen Boseman. The meeting was a follow-up to request made to the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the Boseman death. According to Henderson, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is now conducting an investigation into the Boseman death. "The FBI will determine whether the State Bureau of Investigation report exonerating the seven Greenville Police Officers is either erroneous or incomplete," says Henderson. Henderson says, "the FBI will then turn over their finding to the U.S. Department of Justice." Henderson says, "I am confident that if it is determined that prosecution is warranted a grand jury will be convened and indictments will be issued."

According to Henderson, "we are asking the U.S. Department of Justice to determine whether Eugene Boseman's death was actually the result of 'restraint asphyxia' rather than the reported 'agitated delirium'." Based upon the evidence we have uncovered it appears the officers compressed Boseman into the ground for over four minutes with such force that he suffocated to death," says Henderson.

David Baylock, Boseman's brother-in-law said that Greenville Police Officers pressed his brother into the ground so hard that grass and dirt had matted into his brother's face. Representatives of the Boseman family say they just want justice done. They don't want to see this type of thing happen again to other people in Greenville and the officers should be punished for what they did.

Experts say that "compression of the trunk limits chest movement and may splint the diaphragm preventing the diaphragm from moving up and

down between the chest and the abdomen. These diaphragmatic movements are essential to the breathing process. We know that people who have their chest squeezed die because they are unable to breathe adequately." According to the Autopsy Report, Mr. Boseman was about five foot eight inches tall (5' 8") weighing 286 pounds. The medical examiner described Boseman as morbidly obese. "When seven professional police officers compress a man of Boseman's size and weight into the ground for over four minutes it is foreseeable that death is the likely result," says Henderson. According to M.G.F. Gilliland, M.D., Pitt County Medical Examiner, Boseman also had three broken ribs. The Medical Examiner said there is at least one description of Mr. Boseman being held down by having a foot placed on his left shoulder included in the history. "We believe the medical examiner ruled the death was caused by Agitated Delirium" because all the facts surrounding Boseman's death were not available to the medical examiner," says Henderson.

Henderson says, the words "Agitated Delirium" did not make the cause of death clear to us in the community so our people consulted the literature and spoke with other medical examiners. We learned that "Agitated Delirium" was at best the most plausible explanation of Mr. Boseman's death when other evidence is not considered. We learned that in an "Acute Behavioral Disturbance" situation like this that two other explanations are equally plausible. These are "Restrain Asphyxia" and "Positional Asphyxia." We learned that where Mr. Boseman was at the actual time he stopped breathing was even more important than the fact that illegal drugs were detected in his system. We understand that there is no clear and conclusive medical evidence that has determined the cause of death. Therefore, if all the facts are considered the cause of death ruling is subject to change.

According to the official re-

cord from eyewitness interviews, while in the grassy area, Boseman was lying on his stomach and the police officers could not get his hands behind his back in order to handcuff him." (The record also states that officers beat him while in this position, including with at least one long black metal object). The record shows that Mr. Boseman was eventually handcuffed after being compressed into the ground for more than four minutes by police officers. The record states that Eventually Boseman stopped fighting and appeared unconscious." One witness stated that she did not see any signs of life." Boseman may not have been struggling to keep from being handcuffed but was apparently struggling to breathe," says Henderson.

Mr. Boseman did not just suddenly collapse. He stopped breathing only after being forcefully pressed into the ground on his stomach," according to Henderson. Restraint Asphyxia occurs when the restraints imposed by police restrict the persons' ability to breathe and results in suffocation. Boseman's girlfriend told police that Boseman has HIV infection during the altercation and prior to officers escalating the beating and then suffocating Boseman. According to Henderson, a major question for a grand jury is whether any of the Greenville Police Officers formed a malicious intent to kill Mr. Boseman after they learned of his HIV infection, or whether they acted with reckless disregard."

According to the Autopsy Report, the police stated that one police officer struck Boseman in the head with his fist when Boseman hit him. The medical examiner, however, indicated that Boseman has been struck in the head with a flashlight or ASP Baton several times. If we are to believe the official findings of local officials, then, for his own safety, the police beat Mr. Boseman unmercifully breaking three ribs and beating him in the head with police clubs," says Henderson.

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Spiritual Reflections



Dr. George Hawkins

Greeting:

Truly, we are living in the last and the evil days. The bible tells us in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that anti-sodomy laws are unconstitutional, and on June 10, an appeals court in the Canadian province of Ontario struck down a ban on same-sex marriage. You may not have thought about the ramifications of what these laws may have on our culture so I am here to cry out and to warn you that when you see such action not to be alarmed by what you see but pray. You must first know that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Let me explain, as Christians we did not set up standards so we allowed the

devil to use his wiles to tear down our hedge of protection. The laws that were passed down by the Supreme Court have opened the door to sexual perversion. You may be walking down the street and see two men holding hands or two women kissing. Just pray and bind up this evilness God said whatsoever thing you bind on earth I'll bind in heaven and whatsoever thing you loose on earth I'll loose in heaven.

Christian, I want to know whose report are you going to believe, We shall believe the report of the Lord.

First, let us get an understanding of what sodomy is. Sodomy is non-coital carnal copulation with members of the same or opposite sex, or with animal. (Sexual intercourse with the same sex, anal or oral) "Sodomites" does not refer to the inhabitants of Sodom during the Old Testament days. It refers to the people who practiced oral sex as a pagan religious rite! This was an abomination to God. Sodomy is a sin to God and man. The practice of sodomy is a diabolical invention of Satan to damn man's soul and bring him into total submission because he knows that the unrighteousness will never enter into heaven.

A door to spiritual wickedness has been open as a result to the new sodomy law that passed; this law will permit all types of sexual activities. You see in the book of Colossian 3:5, God tells

us to "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:.... And again in Galatians 5:19 God tell us that the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness.... notice that sexual sins are among the first to be listed, I know that a sin is a sin but sin have degrees and I believe that sexual sins rank to the top of that list. You may ask why did I say that, well the answer is simple in the book of I Corinthians 6:18 God said "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body". You must know that each time you come together to have sex you bond with the person that you are with and since the two are one in spirit you share or should I say you transfer spirits with one another.

If you are guilty of practicing sexual sins, STOP NOW AND REPENT! God loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. He will forgive you and forget you sins like He did for me, if you humble yourselves and ask for peace. REMEMBER, it's never too late to repent. And when the enemy comes in like a flood then the Lord will rise up a standard against him.

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Radio Show Promotes Pitt Community College



Pitt Community College has taken to the radio to inform listeners about its programs and academic opportunities. Pitt Community College Outreach with Ernest Lee airs each Wednesday from noon until 12:30pm. Lee, director of outreach for the college, interviews administrators and educators about topics from adult education and job training to financial aid and associate degree programs. There's a lot of citizens in Pitt County that do not understand how to use the community college, what it's for, and how they can utilize it to enhance their lives, Lee said. The program broadcasts on WOOW Joy 1340 AM.

Consumer Nation

.cont. from page 1

Black businesses. "For every \$1 billion that we spend with each other, we employ 50,000 more of our people," he said. Asians and Jews circulate money better, he said, because they make decisions based on community, while Blacks make decisions based on price. But Blacks hesitate to support Black merchants because their prices may be higher or the same as the competitor, he added.

The challenge also lies, he said, in location. The 25 percent of Black households that earn a substantial income live in the suburbs where there are considerably fewer Black businesses, said Dr. Kunjufu.

"If your best Black minds do not live or work, spend, volunteer or invest in the Black community, can it be anything else but a ghetto?" he asked.

"We have a lot of income, but we don't have a lot of wealth. And we don't have wealth, because we simply transfer our wealth to others by spending most of that with businesses other than our own," said James Clingman, who is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Clingman echoed others who say that control of manufacturing, production and distribution are key to economic empowerment. But he also contends that Blacks have psychological barriers.

"We're also rich in intellectual capacity, and that's what bothers me," he continued. "If most of us were not psychologically enslaved, we would be spending with one another, we would be building more businesses and supporting them, we would be pooling our capital and pooling our intellectual resources and doing more for our people, just like others are doing in this country."

"The only reason I see for us being the most educated and intellectual Black people on this earth, and having nearly \$700 billion go through our hands and still be in the condition that we're in, is that we're still psychologically enslaved. There's no way that this White man can do to us what he does and we just accept it. We have to stop accepting it. Turn inwards, look inwards to our own resources and do more for ourselves, regardless of what he does," he said.

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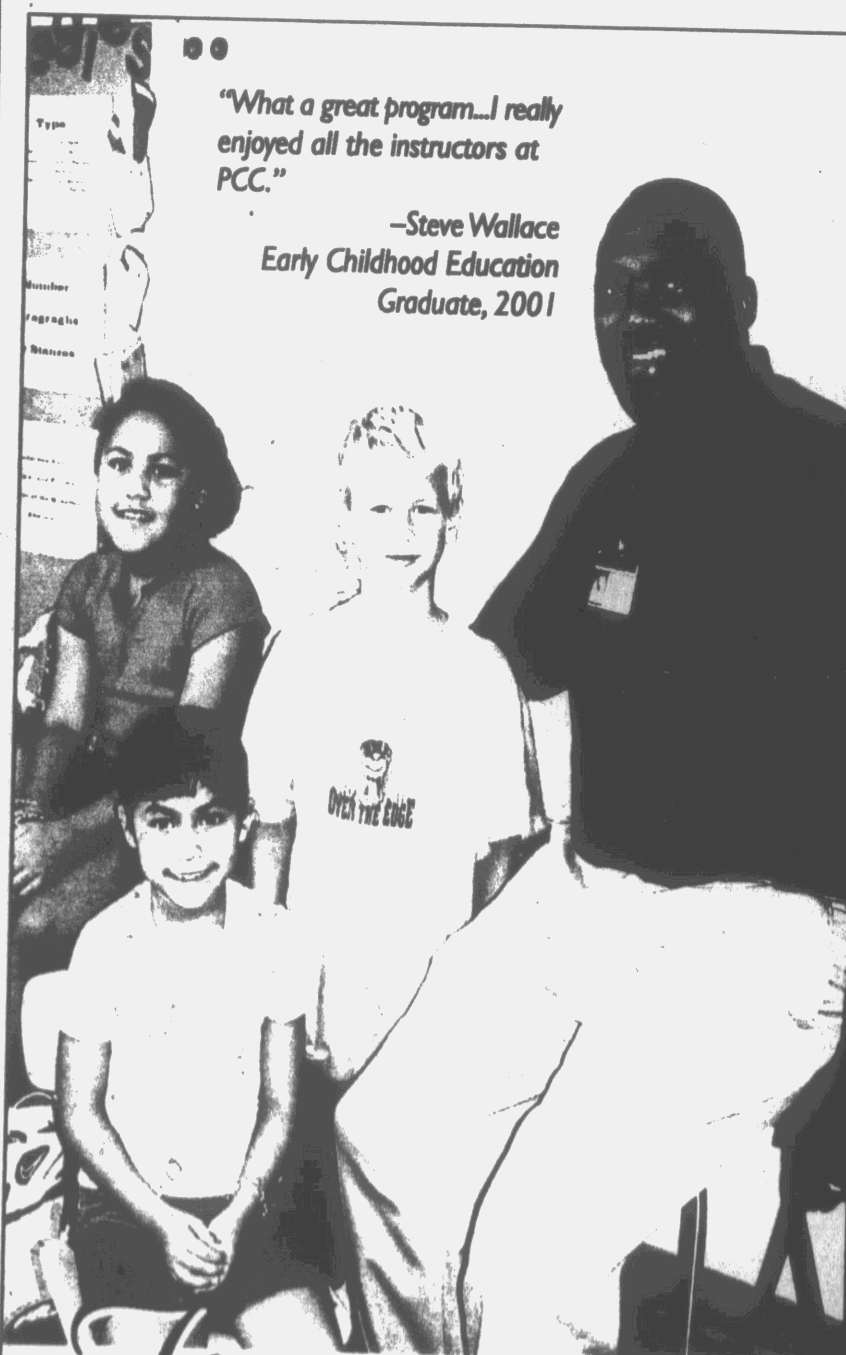
Guest Speakers

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Minister Russell Early
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Friday August 29, 2003

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can read about a MAN who fixes tickets. HE will rip up your tickets, tear them into a million tiny pieces, and cover them all with HIS precious blood. Enjoy your spiritual ride. (Submitted by Mrs. Mary Bullock)

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6. Character
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(Dr. Shirley Carraway Folks)

To the editor-

Bill Gates, computer software czar and reputed world's richest man, is reported to have said the following at a high school in California (Mt. Whitney High School, Visalia, CA). Whether you like him, or dislike him, he hits the nail on the head. To anyone with kids of any age, or anyone who has ever been a kid, here's some advice Bill Gates recently dished out at a high school speech about 11 things they did not and will not learn in public schools. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings have created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: "Life is not fair-get used to it."

Rule 2: "The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself."

Rule 3: "You will not make \$40,000 a year right out of high

school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both."

Rule 4: "If you think your teacher is tough, wait 'til you get a boss."

Rule 5: "Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping-they called it opportunity."

Rule 6: "If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes. Learn from them."

Rule 7: "Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now to you. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room."

Rule 8: "Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times, as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to anything in real life."

Rule 9: "Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time."

Rule 10: "Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs."

Rule 11: "Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one." - Beatrice Maye

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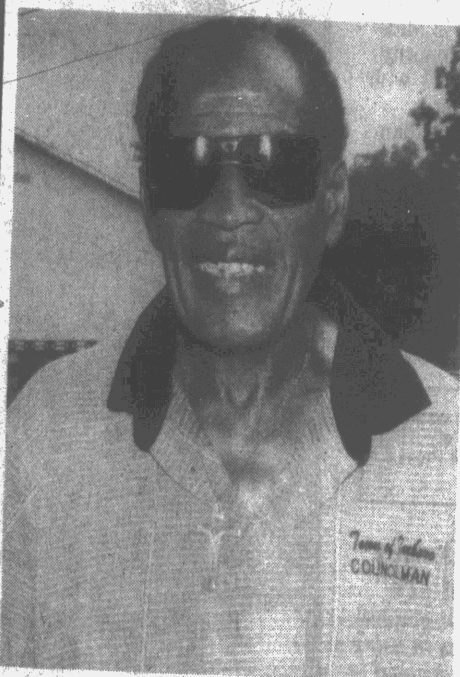
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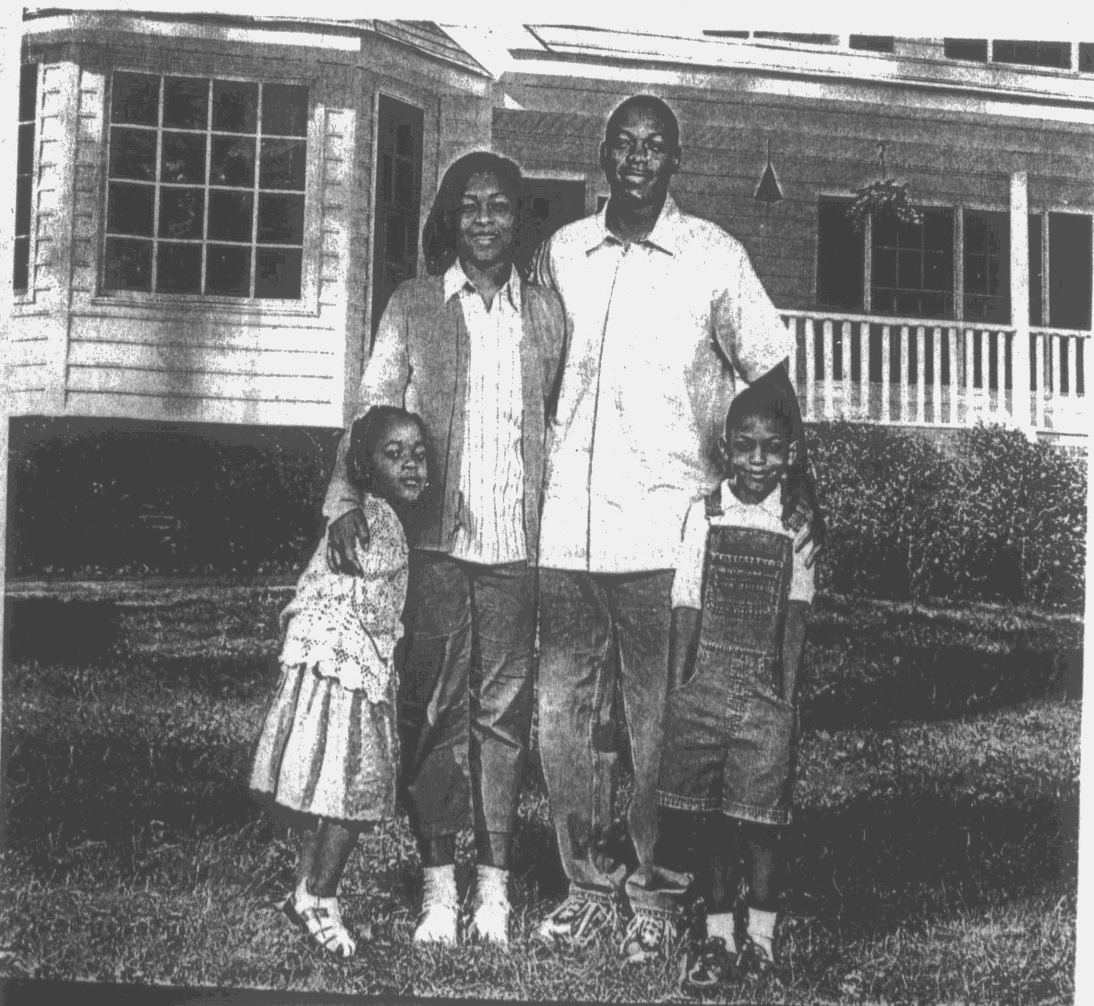
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Black Group Glad NASCAR Cut Ties With Jesse Jackson

Racing Organization Can Continue Minority Outreach, But It Doesn't Need to Pay Jackson

NASCAR has severed its financial ties to the Reverend Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, ending what members of the African-American leadership network considered little more than a shakedown of the professional auto-racing organization. Project 21 members encourage NASCAR to continue its outreach to minorities, but consider Jackson's past relationship more hurtful than helpful.

On July 29, *USA Today* reported that a NASCAR insider confirms the organization has not and will not make a financial donation to Jackson groups in 2003.

"This is a major win," said Project 21 member Horace Cooper. "Supporters of NASCAR and advocates for good government alike can cheer this decision. No longer will an outstanding sports league support an individual whose moral failings make him unfit to promote progress on race relations and personal responsibility in our urban communities."

Project 21 joined a campaign begun by the National Legal and Policy Center to urge NASCAR to end its financial relationship with Jackson. NASCAR reportedly gave Jackson's groups over \$250,000 in recent years. During that time, NASCAR introduced internal diversity programs and began minority outreach efforts. These efforts were effectively dismissed in late June, when Rainbow/PUSH board member Bill Shack called auto racing "the last bastion of white supremacy" in professional sports and Rainbow Sports director Charles Ferrell called NASCAR "a good ole' boy's Southern cracker sport" in July.

Jackson claimed credit for helping black driver Morty Buckles in a single race in 2001 and is reportedly helping put together a black motorcycle racing team. However, Project 21 was contacted by a high-profile black driver who said he had never been contacted by Jackson or his associates and by black team owners who believe Jackson's intrusion in the sport is having a negative impact on getting black drivers on the track. In interviews, Project 21 members and staff pointed out that minority outreach is a benefit to NASCAR. Furthermore, Jackson - with his business ties - can do more to find the sport's "Tiger Woods" by helping drivers find financial sponsors rather than dictating policy to racing officials. Finding sponsors would show Jackson's true interest in diversifying the sport, and would not require a cash donation from NASCAR (which doesn't fund teams or individual drivers).

Project 21 member Reginald Jones added: "I'm happy to hear that NASCAR is progressing in separating itself from Jesse Jackson. They are moving away from political correctness by moving away from Jackson."

Project 21 has been a leading voice of the African-American community since 1992. For more information, contact David Ainael at (202) 371-1400 x106 or Project21@nationalcenter.org, or visit Project 21's website at <http://www.project21.org/P21Index.html>.

Black Group Demands Miramax/Disney Rename Film Use of "Buffalo Soldiers"

Name Disrespects Achievements of Famed Black Regiments Citing racial insensitivity and the inappropriateness in using the name of a highly-decorated group of black servicemen in a portrayal of corrupt soldiers, members of the African-American leadership network Project 21 are demanding that the Miramax Film Corporation and its parent company The Walt Disney Company rename its upcoming film "Buffalo Soldiers."

The movie "Buffalo Soldiers," based on a novel of the same name by Robert O'Connor and set to open in theaters on July 25, sarcastically portrays the U.S. Army in Germany in the late 1980s as filled with smugglers, drug abusers, fools and bigots. The movie has been completed for several years, but Miramax previously delayed its release because of the events of 9/11 and the war in Iraq. While not wishing to censor the content of the film, members of Project 21 are asking Miramax and Disney change the name to keep the film from incorrectly linking these damaging portrayals of the military with the black army regiments created after the Civil War that served with great distinction.

"When the name Buffalo Soldiers is uttered, the only thought that anyone has is of those brave men who fought valiantly for all of the people of the United States," said Project 21 member Michael King. "For Miramax and Disney to insult those men and women with this movie title is simply reprehensible. There is no excuse they can provide that can explain their complicity in this outrage."

Congress created six regiments of black soldiers in 1866. They served primarily in the western frontiers of the United States, but also took part in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba and in the pursuit of Mexican bandit Pancho Villa. They acquired the name Buffalo Soldiers from the Plains Indians, who associated them with the fighting spirit of the sacred buffalo. The term was bestowed with respect, and the black soldiers proudly adopted the name. In 1879, 20 Buffalo Soldiers won the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroic efforts in a battle in the New Mexico territory.

In contrast, a positive review of the film "Buffalo Soldiers" posted on the Internet Movie Database describes the film as "a dark, satirical look at the peacetime activities of the U.S. Army in Germany just before the [Berlin] Wall came down. It offers such a critical look at the army that every main character turns out to be a swindler, a wimp, an idiot, a junkie or a psychotic."

Project 21 member Geoffrey Moore says, "This film not only shows disrespect for our brave American men and women currently serving in the armed forces, but also shows a callous disrespect and ignorance or history of African-American contributions to this great nation."

King adds: "This movie would do nothing but tarnish the name of the Buffalo Soldiers, both past and present, in the minds of the public. The irresponsibility of the filmmakers borders on criminal in my mind."

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Employment is contingent upon passing a physical examination including a drug screening urinalysis. Interested persons should contact the Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 1847, Greenville, NC 27835 (801 Mumford Road) or call (252) 551-1513. <http://www.guc.com>

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE

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Greenville Housing Authority (2 positions available)

The Greenville Housing Authority is recruiting for a professional individual to perform clerical duties in the Administrative Office. Duties will include, typing, answering phones, providing general information, report preparation, indexing, filing and related work. This position requires excellent interpersonal skills and a typing speed of 40-50 words per minute as well as computer skills.

Candidate must be a high school graduate with 6 months previous work experience. An associate degree is preferred. Starting Annual Salary: \$23,405.82

Applications can be obtained at the Greenville Housing Authority's Central Office, 1103 Broad Street, Greenville, NC 27834. All completed applications must be returned to the Central Office by 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 27, 2003.

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Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Greenville Housing Authority

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Applications can be obtained at the Greenville Housing Authority's Central Office, 1103 Broad Street, Greenville, NC 27834. All completed applications must be returned to the Central Office by 5:00pm, Monday, September 8, 2003.

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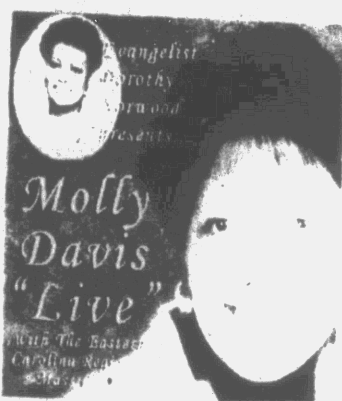
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BARRY WHITE DEAD AT 58 Soul hits seduced millions: Barry White is survived by eight children and his companion, Catherine Denton. Graphic: THE HITS* "Never Never Gonna Give Ya Up," 1973 * "Can't Get Enough of Your Love Babe," 1974 * "You're The First, The Last, My Everthing," 1974 * and "Love Serenade." Barry White is pictured above in earlier days with Soul Singer Gladys Knight. photo M' Voice Archives



At a time when everybody and their brother is coming out with a CD it is good to hear someone who will not turn out to be a one hit wonder. With the contributions of the world renowned Dorothy Norwood, and the musical talents of Tommie Davis Jr. will prove to make this a collectors item. This is one that you can definitely add to your music library.

Michael Adams
Program Director
for WOOW Joy 1340AM Radio

Gregory Hines dies at 57

By DAVID HINCKLEY
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER
Sunday, August 10th, 2003

His death at his Los Angeles home stunned the tap-dancing world and many of those close to him.

"Nobody knew he was sick," his longtime representative Allen Eichhorn said yesterday. "People are horrified. We all thought he was just busy, as he usually was, with his projects."

LeRoi Myers, 83, one of the last old-time tap dancers, called the news of Hines' death "shocking. . . [But] it was typical. He didn't want anyone fussing over him."

New Yorkers had expected Hines in town last month for the annual Tap City festival but he said he was busy with a film.

There were few areas of entertainment in which Hines was not busy, from emceeing the 2002 Tony Awards with Bernadette Peters to singing with Luther Vandross. As an all-around entertainer, he was often compared with Sammy Davis Jr.

Praise from director

"He was the last of a kind of immaculate performer - singer, dancer, actor and personality," said George C. Wolfe, who directed him in "Jelly's Last Jam" on Broadway. "He knew how to command."

"His heart and soul went into everything he did," said Peters. "He had amazing creativity." Born in Brooklyn on Valentine's Day 1946, Hines was dancing on stage at age 4. When he was 8, he played two weeks at the Apollo with his brother and father.

He did stunning work for the 1984 film "The Cotton Club," though most of his dances were cut, and he won a Tony for "Jelly's Last Jam" (1992) after being nominated for "Comin' Uptown" (1979) and "Sophisticated Ladies" (1981).

Had sitcom in '70s

His movie credits included "White Nights" (1985) with Mikhail Baryshnikov, and on TV he had his own sitcom, "The Gregory Hines Show" (1997), and a recurring role on NBC's "Will and Grace." He won several Emmy nominations, including for the Bill Robinson movie "Bojangles" on Showtime (1999).

His decade-long struggle to film "Bojangles" reflected his passion for tap. "The story of his [Robinson's] life has to be told," Hines said. "The rest of us all walk a trail he blazed."

Hines linked old-time hoofers like his idol Harold Nicholas to newcomers like Savion Glover, a protege. The two became close, and Hines would joke that in competitions, "Sometimes I have to let the kid win."

A well-spoken, self-effacing man with a warm manner and eyes that could flit from mischievous to basset-hound - sad, Hines had a complex, on-and-off relationship with his former dancing partner and brother, Maurice.

At Sylvia's restaurant in Harlem, where he often ate, Tykeysha Keitt, 32, of Queens recalled seeing him at the Apollo.

"If you can dance alongside Sammy Davis Jr., you're wonderful," she said. "I'm devastated."

Hines is survived by his fiancée, Negrita Jayde, his father Maurice Sr., his brother, his daughter Daria, his son Zach and his stepdaughter Jessica.

Private services will be held in Los Angeles. A public memorial is expected later.

With Amy Sacks

Career highlights

Stage

"Jelly's Last Jam," 1992

"Sophisticated Ladies," 1981

"Comin' Uptown," 1979

"Eubiel," 1978

"The Girl in Pink Tights," 1954

Film

"Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her," 2001

"The Preacher's Wife," 1996

"Waiting to Exhale," 1995

"Renaissance Man," 1994

"A Rage in Harlem," 1991

"Tap," 1989

"Running Scared," 1986

"White Nights," 1985

"The Cotton Club," 1984

"History of the World: Part I," 1981

TV

"Lost at Home," 2003

"Bojangles," 2001

"Little Bill," 1999

"Will & Grace," 1998

"The Gregory Hines Show," 1997

"Gregory Hines: Tap Dance in America," 1989

"Motown Returns to the Apollo," 1985

"I Love Liberty," 1982

The Associated Press



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Mr David L. Lawrence Appointed General Manager Hamilton Inn & Conference Center of Greenville N.C.

The Hamilton Inn and Conference Center, 702 South Memorial Drive, Greenville, North Carolina is now under New Management.

Mr. David L. Lawrence has been appointed the General Manager. Mr. Lawrence is a native of Western North Carolina with ten (10) years experience in the hotel business. He has served in all capacities relevant to the hotel business and is very familiar with introducing change in this industry. Mr. Lawrence has served as a Elementary, Middle and High School Teacher, Employment Consultant and Coordinator for the Iredell Statesville School System.

Mr. Lawrence is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, North Carolina with a BA in Social Science and Human Services. He also is a graduate of Mitchell Community College, with an Associate Degree in Pre-Liberal Arts. He is a Master Mason and member of the First Baptist Church, Statesville North Carolina.

He is the son of Mrs. Betty Lawrence of Statesville, North Carolina and the father of two sons, David Jr., and Arthur.

The Corporate Staff of JAM, Investments, LLC, invite the general public to stop by and visit with Mr. Lawrence.



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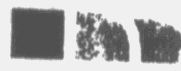
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